

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
2006 to 2007 (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007)**

***DATA SOURCES, DEFINITIONS & STATE PERFORMANCE***

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is the lead state agency for the Part C program, also known as Early Intervention. Part C refers to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* Part C formula grant programs, which assist states in providing early intervention services for infants and toddlers (*from birth through age two*), and their families. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is required to have in place a performance plan evaluating the state's implementation of Part C and describing how the Department will improve such implementation. This plan is called the **Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)**. The Department is also required to report annually its performance according to its SPP targets. This report is called the **Part C Annual Performance Report (APR)**.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is required to report annually to the public on the performance of each of its early intervention service (EIS) programs according to the targets identified in its SPP. States must include EIS programs for which an entity or individual provides early intervention services under Part C in the state, whether or not the entity or individual receives federal Part C funds. These entities may be public, private or non-profit entities that provide or fund early intervention services through interagency agreements with the state or through other methods.

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCES, DEFINITIONS & STATE PERFORMANCE
<p><b>Indicator 1: Timeliness of early intervention IFSP services</b></p> <p>Compliance Indicator (<i>EI programs are federally mandated to be 100% compliant</i>)</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of children having 100% of their IFSP services being received in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b> The Massachusetts definition for timely services is within 30 days of the IFSP signed date. EI programs where the percent of children having 100% of their IFSP services being received in a timely manner is less than 85% or the percent of IFSP services received within 30 days of the IFSP signed date is less than 90% require a corrective action plan.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> The <i>Service Coordination Survey</i> on the <i>Fiscal Year 2007 Early Intervention Annual Report and Self-Assessment</i> collected service data from Early Intervention programs of IFSP children served from January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007. A sample of 590 early intervention children (<i>10 children per program</i>) and their 3,553 IFSPs (<i>initial, interim and annual</i>) was used for analysis.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Average: 86.8% - Percent of children having 100% of their IFSP services being received in a timely manner 97.0% - Percent of services received in a timely manner</li> <li>512 of the 590 children received all IFSP services within 30 days of the IFSP signed date or had appropriate justifications.</li> <li>3,447 of the 3,553 IFSP services were received within 30 days of the IFSP signed date or were not received within 30 days of this date but had appropriate justifications (<i>e.g., family schedule</i>).</li> </ul>

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<b>Indicator 2: Primary IFSP services provided in the home or in a program with typically developing children</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b> 95.0% of children with an IFSP will receive services in the home or in programs for typically developing children, or will have justification statements on their IFSPs as to why such services cannot be delivered in these settings.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> Children with IFSPs that were active on December 1, 2006 based on data received from the Early Intervention Information system (<i>EIIS</i>). This information was reported in aggregate to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs as Table 2, <i>Primary Setting</i>, of the federal 618 data report.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Average: 98.5%</li> <li>• 14,651 of the 14,878 children active on 12/1/2006 with an IFSP service plan received services primarily at home or at a program with typically developing children.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 4: Families who report that early intervention services have helped the family</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Know their rights;</li> <li>B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and</li> <li>C. Help their children develop and learn.</li> </ul> <p>This indicator is being reported for the first time this year.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Know their rights: 70%</li> <li>B. Effectively communicate their children's needs: 70%</li> <li>C. Help their children develop and learn: 85%</li> </ul> <p><b>Data source:</b> The NCSEAM Family Survey (IFS) was distributed to families between September and November 2007. The surveys were returned by 665 families receiving early intervention services, representing approximately 5% of the total number of surveys distributed to local programs. Of these, 658 provided responses to the IFS. Although this number is high enough for the estimated <b>statewide</b> percents on the indicator to be within an adequate confidence interval, based on established survey sample guidelines, program percents should be viewed cautiously due to low counts.</p> <p><b>Report:</b> State Average: A. Know their rights: 74.9% B. Effectively communicate their children's needs: 71.6% C. Help their children develop and learn: 85.9%</p>

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<b>Indicator 5: MA Children with IFSPs birth to one year old</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of Massachusetts’ population of infants and toddlers birth to one with IFSPs. This data is compared to other states with similar eligibility definitions as well as national data. Over half (57%) of all EI programs serve children in towns served by another EI program (<i>same catchment area</i>). Therefore, catchment area, not program, totals of the birth to one population was used as the basis to calculate program percent.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b> 2.85% of Massachusetts infants and toddlers under the age of one, including children at risk of developmental delay, will receive IFSP services by an early intervention program.</p> <p><b>State Group Averages:</b> State Group averages cannot be calculated due to the fact that catchment area (<i>a combination of one or more cities or towns</i>), not program, counts is used to calculate each program’s percent of children served.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> Infants and toddlers with IFSPs who were active on December 1, 2006 based on data received from the Early Intervention Information system (<i>EIIS</i>). This information was reported in aggregate to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs as Table 1, <i>Child Count</i>, of the federal 618 data report. The state target and average is based on census data while the program percent is based on 2005 birth data.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Average: 3.12%</li><li>• Based on the 12/1/2006 child count data 2,411 infants and toddlers under the age of one residing in Massachusetts have an IFSP for early intervention services. This is 3.12% of Massachusetts’ total population of children under the age of one (based on census data). The national average is 1.04%. Massachusetts continues to serve one of the highest percentages of children less than 1 year of age, including infants and toddlers at risk of developmental delay.</li><li>• The following is comparative data with states having similar eligibility for infants served under the age of one:</li></ul> <table><tr><th>State</th><th>% Served under 1 year of age</th><th>Difference from National Average</th></tr><tr><td>Hawaii</td><td>6.98%</td><td>5.94%</td></tr><tr><td><b>Massachusetts</b></td><td><b>3.12%</b></td><td><b>2.08%</b></td></tr><tr><td>Wyoming</td><td>1.79%</td><td>0.75%</td></tr><tr><td>West Virginia</td><td>2.45%</td><td>1.41%</td></tr><tr><td>New Mexico</td><td>2.21%</td><td>1.17%</td></tr><tr><td>Pennsylvania</td><td>1.71%</td><td>0.67%</td></tr><tr><td><i>National</i></td><td><i>1.04%</i></td><td></td></tr></table>	State	% Served under 1 year of age	Difference from National Average	Hawaii	6.98%	5.94%	<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>3.12%</b>	<b>2.08%</b>	Wyoming	1.79%	0.75%	West Virginia	2.45%	1.41%	New Mexico	2.21%	1.17%	Pennsylvania	1.71%	0.67%	<i>National</i>	<i>1.04%</i>	
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<b>Indicator 6: MA Children with IFSPs birth to three years old</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of Massachusetts’ population of infants and toddlers birth to three with IFSPs. This data is compared to other states with similar eligibility definitions as well as national data. Over half (57%) of all EI programs serve children in towns served by another EI program (<i>same catchment area</i>). Therefore, catchment area, not program, totals of the birth to one population was used as the basis to calculate program percent.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b> 5.85% of Massachusetts infants and toddlers under the age of three, including children at risk of developmental delay, will receive IFSP services by an early intervention program.</p> <p><b>State Group Averages:</b> State Group averages cannot be calculated due to the fact that catchment area (<i>a combination of one or more cities or towns</i>), not program, counts is used to calculate each program’s percentage of children served.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> Infants and toddlers with IFSPs who were active on December 1, 2006 based on data received from the Early Intervention Information system (<i>EIIS</i>). This information was reported in aggregate to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs as Table 1, <i>Child Count</i>, of the federal 618 data report. The state target and average is based on census data while the program percent is based on 2003 to 2005 birth data.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Average: 6.41%</li><li>• Based on the 12/1/2006 child count data 14,878 infants and toddlers under the age of three residing in Massachusetts have an IFSP for early intervention services. This is 6.41% of Massachusetts’ total population of children under the age of three (based on census data). The national average is 2.43%. Massachusetts continues to serve one of the highest percentages of children birth to three years of age, including infants and toddlers at risk of developmental delay.</li><li>• The following is comparative data with states having similar eligibility for infants served under the age of three:</li></ul> <table><tr><th>State</th><th>% Served under 3 years of age</th><th>Difference from National Average</th></tr><tr><td>Hawaii</td><td>7.48%</td><td>5.05%</td></tr><tr><td><b>Massachusetts</b></td><td><b>6.41%</b></td><td><b>3.98%</b></td></tr><tr><td>Wyoming</td><td>4.55%</td><td>2.12%</td></tr><tr><td>West Virginia</td><td>4.41%</td><td>1.98%</td></tr><tr><td>New Mexico</td><td>3.58%</td><td>1.15%</td></tr><tr><td>Pennsylvania</td><td>3.43%</td><td>1.00%</td></tr><tr><td><i>National</i></td><td><i>2.43%</i></td><td></td></tr></table>	State	% Served under 3 years of age	Difference from National Average	Hawaii	7.48%	5.05%	<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>6.41%</b>	<b>3.98%</b>	Wyoming	4.55%	2.12%	West Virginia	4.41%	1.98%	New Mexico	3.58%	1.15%	Pennsylvania	3.43%	1.00%	<i>National</i>	<i>2.43%</i>	
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<p><b>Indicator 7: Children with an IFSP whose initial IFSP was completed within 45 days of the date of referral to the early intervention program.</b></p> <p>Compliance Indicator (<i>EI programs are federally mandated to be 100% compliant</i>)</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within 45 days of the date of referral to an early intervention program.</p> <p><b>State Target:</b> 100% of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs will have an evaluation, assessment, and initial IFSP meeting conducted within 45 days of the date of referral to an early intervention program. EI programs having a compliance percentage less than 90% require a corrective action plan.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> Infants and toddlers who had evaluation and assessment activities and an initial IFSP meeting between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 based on data received from the Early Intervention Information system (<i>EIIS</i>). This data was reported back to early intervention programs as part of the Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report/Self-Assessment follow-up.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Average: 94.9%</li> <li>• 94.9% of evaluation and assessment activities and an initial IFSP meeting occurred within 45 days of referral or did not occur within 45 days of referral but had appropriate justification for the delay (<i>e.g., family circumstances</i>).</li> <li>• 12,191 of the 12,846 initial IFSP service plans were signed within 45 days of the referral date or were not signed within 45 days but had appropriate justifications (<i>e.g., family schedule</i>).</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Indicator 8: Transition Planning</b></p> <p>Compliance Indicator (<i>EI programs are federally mandated to be 100% compliant</i>)</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Percent of all infants and toddlers leaving early intervention who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Completed individual transition plan with transition steps and services is documented on the IFSP</li> <li>b. Notification to the local education agency (<i>LEA</i>), if child is potentially eligible for special education</li> <li>c. Transition conference occurs prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> birth date, if child is potentially eligible for special education</li> </ul> <p><b>State Target:</b> 100% of children leaving early intervention have a completed individual transition plan with steps and services documented on the IFSP and, if potentially eligible for special education, the early intervention program has notified the local education agency (<i>LEA</i>) and a transition planning conference has occurred at least 90 days and up to six months prior to the child's third birthday.</p> <p><b>Data source:</b> All infants and toddlers having an IFSP discharged from early intervention services based on data received from the Early Intervention Information system (<i>EIIS</i>). Aggregate data was reported to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program as Table 3, <i>Exiting Part C</i>, of the federal 618 data report. Infants and toddlers under this report who were referred to special education were included in the <i>Transition Survey on the Fiscal Year 2007 Early Intervention Annual Report and Self-Assessment</i> in order to collect additional transition information on these children.</p> <p><b>Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Averages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 96.6% of all children discharged (<i>regardless of age of discharge</i>) had an individual transition plan fully developed at the time of discharge (<i>Data source: Fiscal year 2007 Exiting Part C report, Table 3 of the federal 618 data reported to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs</i>). There were 13,621 discharges out of 14,099 having a transition plan.</li> <li>○ 94.7% of children discharged from EI and potentially eligible for special education had a notification sent to the local special education office inviting special education representation to the child's transition conference (<i>Data Source: Fiscal Year 2007 Transition Survey on the Annual Report/Self-Assessment of infants and toddlers referred to special education at discharge</i>). There were 2,660 discharges out of 2,808 having a transition plan.</li> <li>○ 98.4% of children discharged from EI and potentially eligible for special education had a transition conference (<i>Data Source: Fiscal Year 2007 Transition Survey on the Annual Report/Self-Assessment of infants and toddlers referred to special education at discharge</i>). There were 2,762 discharges out of 2,808 having a transition plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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**Additional  
Definitions and  
Notes:**

**Compliance:** Early Intervention programs are federally mandated to be 100% compliant to the following:

- All services for infants and toddlers documented on the IFSP are received within 30 days of the IFSP signed date. EI programs where the percent of children having 100% of their IFSP services being received in a timely manner is less than 85% or the percent of IFSP services received within 30 days of the IFSP signed date is less than 90% require a corrective action plan (*see Indicator 1*).
- All eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs will have an evaluation, assessment, and initial IFSP meeting conducted within 45 days of the date of referral to an early intervention program. EI programs having a compliance percentage less than 90% require a corrective action plan (*see Indicator 7*).
- All children leaving early intervention have a completed individual transition plan with steps and services documented on the IFSP (*see Indicator 8*).
- All children potentially eligible for special education have had the early intervention program notify the local education agency (*LEA*) (*see Indicator 8*).
- All children potentially eligible for special education have had a transition planning conference occur at least 90 days and up to six months prior to the child's third birthday (*see Indicator 8*).
- Complaint timelines, hearing timelines, resolution sessions, and other compliance indicators are not captured as part of this report. Information on these is provided in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report.

The Massachusetts General Supervision system (including monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.) identifies and corrects noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

**Corrective action plan:** a plan developed by an Early Intervention program describing the proposal and steps to be taken in order to improve in an area (*e.g., 100% of initial IFSP completion within 45 days of referral date*) targeted by monitoring initiatives.

**Early Intervention program count for each indicator:** Three early intervention programs serving children between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 closed during or after fiscal year 2007. These early intervention's program data was included under Indicator 2, 5 and 6 due to the fact that these indicators were based on children served on 12/1/2006. Data for indicators 1 and 8 was collected from the Early Intervention Annual Report and Self-Assessment given to the 59 active programs in November 2007. Indicator 7 data was collected from the Early Intervention Information system (EIIS), data on infants and toddlers that is transmitted from early intervention programs to the Department of Public Health. Indicator 7 data was then reported back to early intervention programs as part of Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report/Self-Assessment follow-up for the 61 programs that were active throughout fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007).

**EIIS:** The Early Intervention Information system (*EIIS*) is a database of clients and service delivery information on infants and toddlers served in Early Intervention in Massachusetts. EIIS client and service delivery data is transmitted from early intervention programs to the Department of Public Health.

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**Additional  
Definitions and  
Notes (Continued):**

**Evaluation and assessment activities:** the ongoing procedures used by appropriately qualified personnel through the child's eligibility to identify (1) the child's unique strengths and needs; and (2) the resources, priorities and concerns of the family and the supports and services necessary to enhance the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of the child.

**IFSP:** An Individualized Family Service Plan (*IFSP*) is a working document produced collaboratively by program staff and family members that contains the agreed upon Early Intervention services for an eligible child and family. Based on a multidisciplinary evaluation/assessment, the plan includes services necessary to enhance the development of an eligible child, and the capacity of the family to meet the child's needs. Children who do not have an IFSP may have received intake and/or evaluation and assessment activities at an Early Intervention program but are not considered eligible for IFSP services.

**Indicator 3:** Indicator 3, "Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSP service plans who demonstrate improved social-emotional, knowledge and behavior skills to meet their needs" is not reported during 2006 to 2007. This indicator will be reported to the public for the 2007 to 2008 timeframe.

**Region:** the six early intervention regions are defined by program for state monitoring purposes. The definitions follow:

BO - Greater Boston  
CE - Central  
NE - Northeast  
SE - Southeast  
WE - West

**State Group:** Massachusetts Early Intervention programs are categorized into state groups based on the number of children with IFSP service plans. Five groups are identified based on fiscal year 2007 (*July 2006 to June 2007*) data. This type of grouping allows programs to be compared to similar sized programs. The following provides the IFSP child count of each state group:

Group 1: small (approximately 0 to 250 children - *11 programs*)  
Group 2: small to mid-size (approximately 250-400 children - *12 programs*)  
Group 3: mid-size (approximately 400-550 children (*12 programs*)  
Group 4: mid-size to large (approximately 550-700 children - *12 programs*)  
Group 5: large (approximately 700 + children - *12 programs*)